

Incidence of pediatric UTI decreased in early pandemic period

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The incidence of pediatric urinary tract infection (UTI) decreased during the early pre-pandemic period, with no increase in disease severity, according to a study published online Jan. 3 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Danni Liang, M.D., from the Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, California, and colleagues examined the population incidence of UTI in [children](#) and examined the changes in UTI diagnoses and measures of UTI severity associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in a retrospective observational cohort study. The cohort included 13,221,117 enrollees aged 0 to 17 years (51.0 percent male).

The researchers found that the mean incidence of UTI diagnoses was 1.300 UTIs per 100 patient-years. The incidence of UTI was 0.86, 1.58, 1.24, and 1.37 per 100 patient-years at age 0 to 1 years, 2 to 5 years, 6 to 11 years, and 12 to 17 years, respectively; incidence was higher among girls than boys (2.48 versus 0.18 per 100 patient-years). UTIs decreased in the early pandemic compared with prepandemic trends (–33.1 percent for all children; –52.1 percent for infants aged 60 days or younger). All measures of UTI severity decreased or remained stable. After the first three months of the [pandemic](#), the incidence of UTI returned to near prepandemic rates.

"Our findings may inform discussion around the overdiagnosis and/or misdiagnosis of UTI, optimal diagnostic strategies, and [definitions](#) for pediatric UTI," the authors write.

More information: Danni Liang et al, Incidence of Pediatric Urinary Tract Infections Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic, *JAMA Network Open* (2024). [DOI: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.50061](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.50061)

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